vidual borrowers against the security of shares. This ceiling, however, does not apply to loans against shares to market makers.

New Telecom Policy

*708. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guidelines have been formulated for implementation of the new Telecom Policy of Government; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) A Committee has been set up within the Department of Telecommunications to suggest guidelines for implementation of National Telecom Policy. The Report of the Committee is awaited.

Strike of Telecom Workers

*709. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the one hour strike recently in each working shift by the telecome workers; and

(b) if so, what were the issues involved in their strike and what steps Government would like to take to resolve the issues and to avoid any strike in future, stating its effect on the official work as well as in public dealing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was a token of protest for one hour against the entry of Private sector into basic telecome services.

The representatives of the employees were addressed by the Minister of State for Communications and they were assured that the interest of the workers will be safeguarded while implementing the National Telecom Policy and ecective steps are being taken to implement this assurance.

Violation of Financial propriety by Duncan Group of Companies

*710. SHRI K. MOHAMMED KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the attempts by Goenka led Agro Duncan Group of Companies to take over the Andhra Cement Limited by raising loans from banks and financial institutions;

(b) if so, which are those banks and financial institutions which have agreed to give them loans and working capital facilities;

(c) whether Government propose to condone this Group's alleged violation of financial propriety; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY):

(a) to (d) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that the offer of M/s. Duncan Agro Industries (DAIL) for revival of M/s. Andhra Cement Company Limited on the basis of a change in management has been accepted by the Board and the rehabilitation scheme is being sanctioned under Section 18(4) of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. Of the estimated cost of the rehabilitation scheme of Rs. 76.90 crores, DAIL is expected to bring in Rs. 43 crores by way of additional equity and Rs. 22 crores by way of unsecured loans. The balance is expected to be met from internal accruals (Rs. 5.43 crores) and sales tax loan (Rs. 6.47 crores).